

Richard F. Downer

Biography

Richard Downer, a resident of Herndon for more than 50 years, served on the Herndon Town Council for two terms between 1971-1974 and for five terms between 1990-2000. He was elected to an eighth term in May 2008. He serves on the council's Trolley Committee and as an alternate on the Interview Committee, and he is an alternate representative to the Inter-jurisdictional Committee with Fairfax County.

In addition to his service on the council, Downer is active on numerous civic boards and committees, currently serving as treasurer for the Herndon Foundation for the Cultural Arts, the Herndon Historical Society and the Herndon Downtown Alliance; as a member of the board of directors of the Elden Street Players; and as co-chairman of the Rotary Club of Herndon's Dolly Parton's Imagination Library. He has also served on the town's Architectural Review Board and Solid Waste Study Committee; as a founding member of the Herndon Police Citizens' Support Team; as a Dranesville District Representative for the Fairfax County Dulles Corridor Land Use Task Force Committee; and as past president of the Greater Herndon Jaycees. Awards and recognitions received include the Rotary Club of Herndon's Citizen of the Year Award (1984) and "Service Above Self" Award (1987-88); the Town of Herndon Distinguished Volunteer Award (1986, 2002); Fairfax County "Lord Fairfax" Award (1994); the Greater Herndon Jaycees Outstanding Alumnus Award (1996); and the Herndon Chamber of Commerce Business Citizen of the Year Award (2001).

Downer is a graduate of Herndon High School and holds a BS in Commerce from the University of Virginia. He established his own independent insurance agency, HRI Associates, in Herndon in 1972; the agency is now owned by his son Doug Downer, and has recently moved its offices to Herndon's historic downtown.

Downer lives in Herndon with his wife, Linda. In addition to Doug, he has two daughters, Debbie Vigotsky and Doreen Meadows; two stepsons, Larry Limon and Jeremy Ward; and eight grandchildren.